

REMARKS

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-3, 5 and 8-10 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kitahara (US 6,615,852).

The Examiner states it would have been obvious at the time applicant invented the claimed apparatus to add another system having two more baths because duplicating the system is said to be obvious for multiplied effect. Therefore, one of ordinary skill in the art would combine two systems of Kitahara to produce multiple baths.

Applicant respectfully traverses.

Kitahara's invention involves the use of a three baths for cleaning and rinsing dies for synthetic resin molds. The first of Kitahara's baths is a degreasing processing system comprising organic degreasing solvents (col.3, lines 56-59). The second bath is described as being an electrolytic-cleaning device having an ultrasonic transducer (col. 8, lines 33-36) to assist the washing process via ultrasonic and electrolysis methods (col. 3, lines 50-51). The third bath in Kitahara's invention is a rinse bath. A "booth" may be located after the rinse bath to provide hot air to the die to help to dry it.

The cleaning system described in applicant's invention consists of four baths for the removal of coagulant residue from ceramic and/or porcelain formers. The first bath comprises an aqueous solution of ethylene diaminetetraacetate (EDTA), the next bath comprises water, the following bath comprises an aqueous solution of EDTA and/or detergent and/or base, and the final bath comprises water.

At the time of applicant's invention, one skilled in the art could indeed have combined two or more systems of Kitahara to produce multiple baths. However, no such combination of Kitahara's three bath system would have produced applicants four bath system. Kitahara system requires there to be a degreasing processing bath followed by an electrolytic cleaning bath followed by a rinsing bath. Any duplication of Kitahara's

invention would involve the inclusion of a degreasing bath. It would not have been obvious to one skilled in the art that a cleaning system could be produced through omitting Kitahara's degreasing bath followed by a duplication of the remaining second and third of Kitahara's baths.

Applicants urge the Examiner to the conclusion that the claims are now in condition for allowance.

End of Remarks